Settlement commission (Income Tax and Wealth Tax), New Delhi

7755. MAULANA OBAIDULLAH KHAN AZMI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the capacity in which the Chairman, Settlement Commission (Income Tax and Wealth Tax), New Delhi, made visits to other benches during the last three years for hearing the cases when Vice-Chairman of those benches were available there;

(b) whether such hearing of cases by Chairman of the Commission affects the composition of those benches, where the cases are heard by him; and

(c) if so, the steps Government propose to take to check of such violations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKARA MURTHY): (a) Chairman, being the head of the Commission, has to visit other benches on administrative grounds. Besides, if the Chairman was associated with the hearing of a case in any other bench before his appointment as such, then in all such cases which are part heard the bench is normally constituted with the Chairman as Presiding Officer. The Chairman also presides over Special Bench whenever such benches are constituted at Delhi and at other places.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) The question does not arise in view of (a) above.

Cases filed in settlement Commission

7756. MAULANA OBAIDULLAH KHAN AZMI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the year-wise and bench-wise details of applications filed in the Principal Bench as well as other benches of settlement Commission (Income Tax and Wealth Tax) since the date of inception of the Principal Bench and other Benches; and

(b) what was the date of filing of applications, their date of admission, the amount of additional tax admitted in the applications and date of settlement of applications alongwith the amount of additional tax at which the case was settled?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKARA MURTHY): (a) and (b) The Settlement Commission (IT and WT) was constituted with effect from 1-4-1976. The time and effort which will be spent in collecting the information spread over a period of nineteen (19) years may not be commensurate with the results thereof.

Shift in reforms to farm sector

7757. SHRI K. M. KHAN:

MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the World Bank Managing Director has recently stated that the Agriculture Sector will have to be the focus of the economic reforms process in India in future, as per the news item in The Hindustan Times dated the 14th April, 1995 entitled "Reforms should shift to farm sector: W.B.";

(b) if so, the facts thereof; and

(c) what is the reaction of Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKARA MURTHY): (a) and (b) The news item referred to is based on a press conference addressed by Mr. Gautam Kaji, Managing Director of the World Bank, during his visit to India in April, 1995.